



VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 7, 2019

HB 7244 "AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS HAVING DISABILITY RATINGS"

CCM opposes HB 7244.

HB 7244 would increase the property tax exemption amounts for veterans in relation to their disability rating. This bill would expand an existing unfunded mandate on towns and cities and place an increased burden on taxpayers and local businesses. In a situation such as this, the State seeks to buy good will from a segment of the public at the expense of municipalities by using extremely limited, local property tax dollars.

Given the current budget situation and the prospect of millions of dollars in reduced State aid, municipalities are already being forced to consider increases in local property taxes or reducing current services. Towns and cities remain almost exclusively reliant on the imposition of a regressive property tax system to fund all levels of local service and this bill would further increase property taxes that already subsidize the current mandated 77 property exemptions. The expansion of existing property tax exemptions simply shifts the burden of paying for local education and services to other tax payers.

CCM believes it is time to look at the regressive property tax system and working together, find a solution that will provide property tax relief for all and not provide relief to some by shifting the burden to others. We can no longer afford to pick winners and losers and create new or expand current exemptions that are not even based on a person's ability to pay.

CCM asks the Committee to take no action on HB 7244.

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If you have any questions, please contact M. Randall Collins Jr. of CCM at rcollins@ccm-ct.org or (860) 707-6446.